

Via pacis



Newsletter of the Des Moines Catholic Worker Community

Volume 18, Number 2

Summer 1994



Peace House Makes a Stop at the Worker

by Frank Cordaro

For a few days in June, the Des Moines Catholic Worker was privileged to host Karl Meyer and his Peace House.

Karl is a carpenter and the father of three grown children. He's been associated with the Catholic Worker movement for over 37 years and has been a close friend and supporter of Catholic Worker communities throughout the Chicago metropolitan area for as long as anyone can remember. Karl has been a hero of mine ever since I heard about him when I first became a Catholic Worker.

He first met Dorothy Day in the summer of 1957 in New York City. At the ripe old age of 20, he joined Dorothy Day, Ammon Hennacy and others at the NYCW protesting the city's annual nuclear air raid drills. He was among those who were arrested, tried, convicted and sent to jail for not cooperating with the drills. This was the first of many acts of nonviolent civil disobedience in which Karl participated throughout the last 37 years.

He did jail time for trespass-

ing at a nuclear missile base in Nebraska in 1959. He was part of the 1961 San Francisco to Moscow Walk for Peace. An active protester throughout the Vietnam War, he was a member of the Committee for Nonviolent Action in Saigon in 1966.

He spent much of the 1980's working with the Pledge of Resistance opposing U.S. Government foreign policies in Central America.

A war tax resister for the last 34 years, he served a nine month prison sentence for his refusal to pay his Federal Income Tax. A leader in the War Tax Resistance, he has been speaking, writing and counseling against paying federal income taxes for 27 years.

He's worked closely with such veteran nonviolent resisters as Marion and Ernest Bromley, Juanita and Wally Nelson and Maurice McCracken. Fr. Dan Berrigan, S.J. was his spiritual director before Fr. Dan was a pacifist.



Karl Meyer

photo by Frank Cordaro

A couple of years ago, Karl sold everything he owned and moved into his mobile Peace House. He has been traveling all around the country educating people about the value and history of nonviolent direct action for social change.

The Peace House is a custom-made camper on the back of a small flat bed truck. It contains a small library of books and tapes on nonviolence. It has a small meeting room that can accommodate 12 adults.

It also serves as Karl's home, equipped with a full service kitchen. Karl has been living in his Peace House on and off for the last two years. He carries

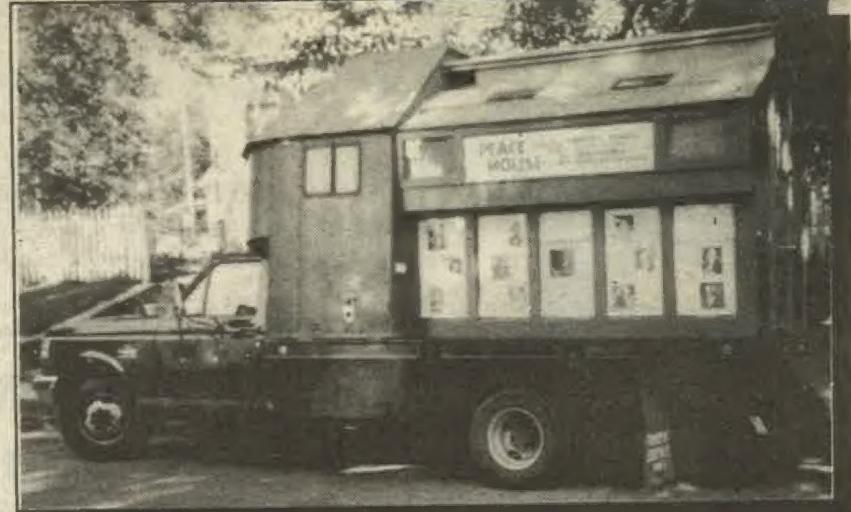
his own carpentry tools and offers his services to the Catholic Worker Houses and needy folks he meets in his travels.

The Des Moines Catholic Worker's houses were direct benefactors of Karl's four-day visit. He installed a much needed ceiling fan, fixed doors, did work in the bathrooms and did a couple of other odds and ends. Karl did such a good job that Carla offered him a full year internship at the DMCW.

Karl led a round-table discussion after our June 10th Friday night mass. He captivated the crowd with stories of his life and times in the Catholic Worker movement.

His best advice to people who want to be in the CW movement for the long haul is to stay small and do what you can. He told us we shouldn't be afraid to change the way we do hospitality to accommodate the needs and limits of our community.

I especially enjoyed the time I spent with Karl in the attic of Ligutti House after his talk. It brought to mind many other such nights when guests and friends would end their nights in the attic, sharing a beer or two and talking into the late hours of the night.



The Peace House — parked in front of the Worker on 7th Street

photo by Frank Cordaro

Karl is looking for more communities to visit.
He can present educational programs for people of all ages. Small children love to explore the Peace House. For student groups he offers nonviolent training workshops, role plays and interactive discussions that focus on problems of racism, sexism, interpersonal violence and social pressures in a militarized society.

He can speak on a wide range of peace and justice topics, a few examples: "The History of Nonviolent Action in the USA"; "The Philosophy and Practice of Nonviolence"; "Understanding the Gulf War & the War In Bosnia From A Pacifist Perspective"; and "Why Refuse To Pay Federal Taxes."

If you would like to invite Karl Meyer to your community, you can contact him at 1460 W. Carmen Ave., Chicago IL. 60640, ph: (312) 784-8065.

Summer Appeal

The summer months are always slow for donations and support. Carla reports that we have just enough money in the checking account to pay for the printing and mailing of this issue of *v/p*. We at the Catholic Worker are not in the budget of any government agency or the institutional Church. Nobody in the community is paid a salary to live here. We depend solely on individuals and individual Church communities to sustain us in our daily lives.

As our readers know, it is not easy to keep up with the monthly bills while putting mon-

ey into making necessary and on-going repairs on our three houses. Our current house rehab projects are moving very slowly. All three houses need urgent attention on their exteriors, interiors and on their foundations.

Lazarus House is in such poor shape that we are considering closing the house and asking our guests from Central America to find another place to live while we try to get the house back into shape.

The Dingman Memorial Fund is very low. We need donations to help us keep hospitality houses going with extra money to help pay for materials needed to continue our rehab efforts. We need people with carpentry, plumbing and electrical skills to stake out a rehab project in one of our houses and follow through in getting it done.

If your church, school or organization is looking for a service project, we are the ticket! We are looking for several individuals or groups who might be willing pledge funds to

pay part or all of our monthly utility bills, especially in the winter months.

We are always looking for more folks to sign up to cook an evening meal or to bring a work crew to help with the many cleaning and painting projects around the houses.

We would be more than happy to come and speak to any groups or organizations about the special work we do at the houses and our special needs.

August 23 marks the 18th Anniversary of the Des Moines Catholic Worker! The DMCW has a long and valued tradition. Throughout our 18 years we have always relied on the generosity of our extended family of friends and supporters to keep us going. Each day we remain open is a living testimony of their generosity and support. Please consider continuing your support of us and the work we do. Thank you.

What's Happening

by Frank Cordaro

It is with sadness that I must begin by informing readers of the recent kidnapping and brutal murders of Clara Baker and Phyllis King, two elderly neighbors of the DMCW. They lived only two doors north of Dingman House and this crime has been a real shock to the whole community. We

offer our condolences and prayers to the families of these two women and we pray for those who committed this awful act. The murders of Clara and Phyllis have prompted renewed calls for the death penalty in Iowa. In this issue of *vp*, we are reprinting an opinion piece by Ed Fallon opposing the death penalty. Ed and his family live next door to Ligutti House. He plays guitar at our Friday night

masses and is our state representative.

This issue of *vp* also features the May 29 simultaneous peace witnesses at StratCom (Strategic Command Headquarters, Bellevue, NE) and EUCOM (U.S. armed forces headquarters for Europe, the Mediterranean and the Near East, located in Stuttgart, Germany). There are also up-dates on the Pax Christi Spirit of Life Plowshares and Fr. Carl Kabat.

We report on the recent visit from Karl Meyer & his Peace House. And Barry Molloy, long time friend and supporter of the DMCW shares some thoughts on the Palestinian / Israeli peace prospects.

We have our regular features, Carla's Community News article and Norman's Whereabouts. And Ed Bloomer gives us a short reflection on his experience of a Native American Sweat he attended while visiting the Council Bluffs area.

Mark Friday night Oct. 14 on your calendars! Veteran Pittsburgh Catholic Worker and Nonviolent Resister Vince Eirene is making a speaking tour of the Midwest this Fall and he will be with us for a presentation following mass on Friday, Oct. 14. The title of his talk is, "The Unfinished Work

of Peace — to Ban the Bomb." Vince has visited the DMCW before and we'll be glad to have him back. He is a very colorful and animated Italian American.

Waiting For the Other Shoe to Drop:

Still no word from the Omaha Federal District Attorney's office to answer charges of breaking my standing "Ban & Bar" letter at Offutt AFB on May 29th. The last time I was indicted it took Offutt three months to pass my name on to the Omaha Federal District Attorney's office.

When Bill Farmer and Mark Kenney, the last people indicted for breaking "Ban & Bar" letters at Offutt, were indicted, it took Offutt six months to get their names to the District Attorney's office. Justice (sic) do move slow in this country. I fully expect to be called to court eventually to answer charges of breaking past "Ban & Bar" letters from Offutt. Stay tuned. We will keep you posted.

Fr. Philip Kaufman, OSB

will be the Conference's keynote speaker on Friday night Sept. 9th. Fr. Kaufman, the author of the book, *Why You Can Disagree and Remain a Faithful Catholic*. Due to the conference, there will be no Friday night mass at the DMCW on Sept. 9th.

Iowa Call To Action:

The first Fall Conference of the Iowa Call To Action is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, Sept. 9 & 10 at Christ the King Church in Des Moines.

Call To Action is a reform

movement within the Roman Catholic Church. Among the changes they advocate are: an end to mandatory celibacy for the priesthood and an opening up of all leadership and decision-making bodies (including the priesthood) to all people, including women and married people. They are calling for a more open process in the selection of Bishops within the local church having more say in who gets appointed to lead their diocese. They want more lay involvement in developing the church's teaching on human sexuality. They are for a more democratic spirit within the whole Church, maintaining that the people most affected by Church decisions should have the most say in such decisions.

If you are interested in attending the Conference or getting on the IA mailing list, drop me a line at St. Patrick's Church, 223 Harmony St., Council Bluffs IA. 51503.

In the Midst of His People

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of Bishop Maurice J. Dingman*

by Shirley Crisler, SFCC, and Mira Mosle BVM
Foreword by Senator Tom Harkin



Rudi Publishing, \$14.95 paper, \$24.95 hardcover
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Catholic Worker Community*

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Community Members

Ed Bloomer, Carla Dawson and sons: Julius, Joshua, and Jordan, Brett Murner, Norman Searah

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Friday Mass and Saturday Community Meeting Schedule

All masses are at 7:30 p.m. at Dingman House.

All Saturday Community Meetings are open and are held at Dingman House.

Fri., Aug. 5	with	Bishop Joseph Charron
Fri., Aug. 12	with	Fr. Frank Cordaro
*Sat., Aug. 13	Community Meeting - 8:00 a.m.	
Fri., Aug. 19	with	Fr. Tom Coenen
Fri., Aug. 26	with	Fr. Mike Amadeo
Fri., Sept. 2	with	Fr. Kevin Cameron (Spanish language)
Fri., Sept. 9		No Mass - Ia. Call to Action Conference
Fri., Sept. 16		No Mass - Midwest CW Gathering, Sugar Creek, IA
Fri., Sept. 23	with	Fr. Frank Cordaro
*Sat., Sept. 24	Community Meeting - 8:00 a.m.	
Fri., Sept. 30	with	Fr. Jim Wilwerding
Fri., Oct. 7	with	Fr. Dave Fleming
Fri., Oct. 14	with	Fr. Dave Polich
Fri., Oct. 21		Program - Vince Eirene, "The Unfinished Work of Peace - To Ban the Bomb"
Fri., Oct. 28	with	Fr. Tom Coenen
Fri., Nov. 4	with	Fr. John Seda
Fri., Nov. 11	with	Fr. Kevin Cameron (Spanish language)
Fri., Nov. 18	with	Fr. Mike Amadeo
Fri., Nov. 25	with	Fr. Dave Polich

Community News

by Carla Dawson

Starting my article on a happy note. So keep reading, it only gets better. We had a very special visitor in June. Karl Meyer, a Catholic Worker from Chicago, brought his Peace House to Des Moines. He is a very enlightening presentation after mass.

He paid us a great compliment. He said our CW "fits in better with neighborhood than other church's he has visited." I did not tell him about the neighbor who would like a more within the maintaining disappear.

He also told me a Catholic Worker House should not try to "fit in" with the government establishment in any way, shape or form." As long as he is doing resistance work going to jail, just meeting has renewed my faith in violent civil disobedience as a way to show others what is at the heart of the Catholic Worker movement.

We still only have three full-time community members: Ed Bloomer, Norman Searah and myself. Norman lives in Dingman House, Ed lives in Ligutti House and my boys and I live in Lazarus House. We are stretched very thin, with Norman and Ed doing most of the house coverage at Dingman House. We still could use a couple more full time community members.

When Norman is not doing house coverage, he is using our new truck for house errands & donations. He is in charge of getting the mail and writing thank-yous.

Ed is Mr. Clean in the community. He has Dingman and Ligutti houses so clean, you would swear we had a live-in maid. Ed is very kind



Karl Meyer, Joshua, Jordan, Carla, and Katie Bobbitt at the entrance to the Peace House

photo by Frank Condino

and understanding, especially to our guests.

Ed went Fr. Frank's for some R&R and when he returned, his cat, which he really loves, was missing. We were all relieved when she returned the next day.

Brett Murner has been a real plus for us the last six months. Brett is a Brethren Volunteer working half-time at Iowa Peace Network and half-time with Criminal Justice Ministries.

Though technically not a full time community member, in exchange for his room and board, Brett works one full day a week at the Catholic Worker fixing up our houses. He is real handy with carpentry. He has made two bathroom cabinets and painted the trim on Ligutti House.

We are still waiting for Joanne Kennedy to grace us with her lovely presence. We hope she hasn't forgotten that we are still looking forward

to her coming to Des Moines.... Hurry up Jo Anne. We need you!

My three sons are all in good health. Julius passed the 4th grade and moves on to 5th grade. They had a graduation ceremony for Joshua and his class at Pre-K. It was really nice to see 16 little children in caps and gowns. Jordan is going to start school with his two older brothers in August. He is looking forward to going.

The boys have been busy this summer. They mostly go swimming and to the park. Definitely, one of the high points of the summer was the trip to Adventureland.

Another highlight this summer was my sister Jackie's June 25th marriage to Russell Robinson. Joshua was the ring bearer. He was at his best with all the attention.

Julius and the Quaker Youth Group did a service project at the Meeting House. They mowed grass, washed windows and picked-up garbage. He is a joy and a pleasure as he grows up. He is on his way to being a fine young man.

Julius will soon be off to his Grandmother's in Davenport. So he has been really hyped the last few days about his visit.

Continued on page 6

Norman's Whereabouts

by Norman Searah

I'm writing this "Norman's Whereabouts" at Fr. Frank's apartment while taking a few days off from the Catholic Worker for some rest and relaxation. Last week Eddy Bloomer was here for the same reason. I want to thank Fr. Frank for letting us stay at his home for us to get away from our hectic lives at the Catholic Worker in Des Moines.

I am forty-four years old this month (July). I've been part of the Catholic Worker movement for nearly 16 years, of those at the Des Moines Catholic Worker. Throughout these years I've seen a lot, been through a lot, traveled to many places and met all types of people, both good and bad.

One of the worst things to happen in our neighborhood took place a couple of years ago. Clara Baker and Phyllis King, two elderly women who were friends and lived a few doors down from us were kidnapped and killed. They were killed because they

spoke up for a child in the neighborhood who was being neglected by its mother. The mother, the mother's boyfriend and two other people, fearing that Clara and Phyllis would turn the mother in to social services, decided to kidnap and kill them. News of the kidnappings and killings stunned the whole neighborhood.

The Friday after the murders we dedicated our Friday night mass in honor of Clara & Phyllis. That same night the neighborhood had a special candlelight vigil for the two women. On that day I also planted two rose bushes in Dingman House yard in honor of Clara and Phyllis and all other women who are abused, raped or killed by men. I just feel so bad when I hear about women being abused by men.

I have good memories too. Like the time Bishop Dingman came to bless Lazarus House. He went to each room in the house saying a special prayer for each room. After the house blessing the Bishop stayed around to talk to all the people who came to the house blessing. He was such a fine man

and a good friend to all at the Catholic Workers.

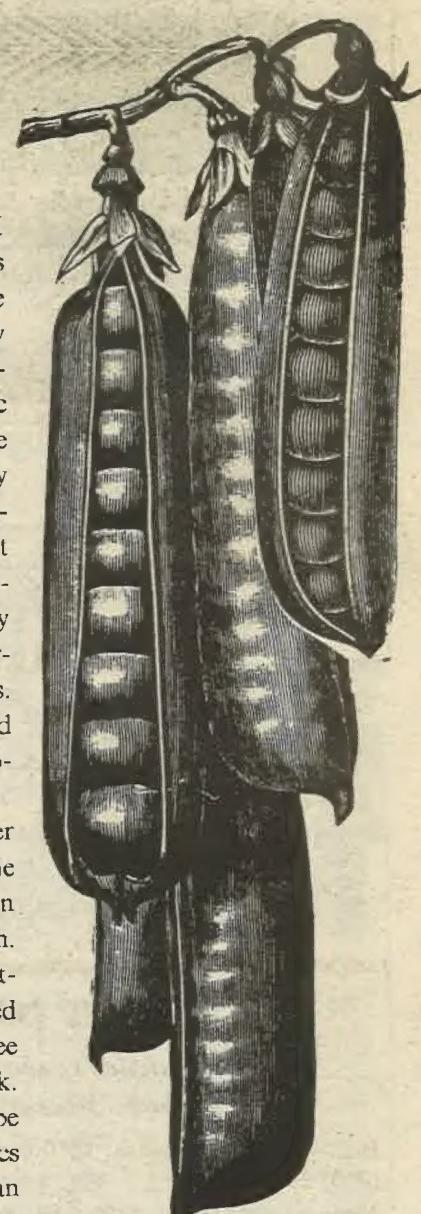
This year's garden in the lot across the street from Ligutti House looks great. It reminds me of the gardens we used to have every summer a few years ago in the same lot when the neighborhood had a lot of Asians living in it. We called it the Ligutti Garden and we had a big sign on the edge of the garden saying so. The lot was divided into different family plots. Our Asian neighbors really knew what they were doing. They grew a lot of their vegetables in that garden, some of which I never ever heard of before.

Now that we have a truck we can do a lot of good things for the people in our neighborhood, like picking up Pat (a former guest and a friend of the house) every Friday so she can be with us for mass. Or taking Birdie for a ride to Saylorville Lake to get her away from the city and enjoy the sites of the country. Along with my friend Lear Bear, we use the truck to help people move things in the neighborhood. And there are always supplies to pick up and errands to run

for our hospitality houses.

In case you didn't know it, I am always looking for bottles and cans to turn in for the nickel refund. I use the money from bottles and cans for special projects at the Catholic Worker. I've been using some of my deposit money to buy books about the Catholic Worker to give to people who want to know more about the movement. So don't throw away your empties. Remember Norman and my special projects. Save your bottles and cans and bring them to me at the Catholic Worker.

Right now there are bigger projects to be done around the houses that will take more than bottle and can money to finish. We really need to get the outsides of our houses painted before winter sets in. All three houses need foundation work. Lazarus House still needs to be completely rehabbed. The attics in Ligutti House and Dingman house need special attention. The community could use a good lawn mower and weeder too. The list can go on and on. I'm sure we can find something for everyone to do, come and visit us and we'll find the right



project for you to do to help us in our work.

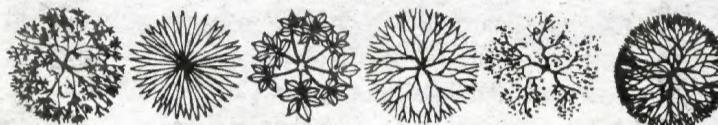
I've already written too much, got to close. Until next time, thank you all for your support.

International

On May 29, 1994 ten peace activists entered the Strategic Command Headquarters (StratCom) near Omaha, NE in an act of nonviolent resistance designed to close StratCom and begin conversion of the facility to peaceful purposes.

StratCom is the operational command center for all strategic nuclear weapons in the U.S. arsenal.

The StratCom action was taken in solidarity with a European peace group calling itself the Eucommunity which on May 29 cut through the fence at Eucom (U.S. Armed Forces Headquarters for Europe, the Mediterranean and the Near East) located near Stuttgart Germany; thus beginning the conversion of that facility to the work of peace. Following are accounts by some of the participants in these acts of resistance against warmaking.



by Frank Cordaro

On May 29, 1994 more than 25 people, representing eight states, gathered at St. Francis Worship Center in Council Bluffs, IA for a retreat and nonviolent direct action sponsored by the Lakes and Prairies Life Community (LAPLC). The weekend gathering culminated in a surprise entry and occupation at the Strategic Command Headquarters (StratCom) located at Offutt AFB.

The two primary guidelines for the witness were no destruction of property and no informing the Offutt authorities before our arrival.

After a tour of the base perimeter and entrances on Saturday and group discussion, we decided to attempt an entry of the StratCom Headquarters gate and make an effort to reach "Building 500", the StratCom Headquarters building.

Ten of us signed on for the

"gate crashing" effort. On Sunday morning, after a 6 a.m. mass, all ten piled into one van (driven by Mike Miles) and proceeded to the StratCom Headquarters gate. The rest of our supporters followed 15 minutes later and gathered at the main entrance located up the road.

The StratCom Headquarters gate is one of three major entrances at Offutt AFB. It is the most inaccessible and least used. To get to this entrance you must first cross the Offutt AFB property line then get two-tenths of a mile down the road before you reach the gate.

The van dropped the ten resisters off right in front of the gate and left the area to avoid possible arrest and joined our other supporters at the main gate.

The ten gate crashers immediately proceeded to "overrun" the gate at a brisk walk, bypassing the two guards stationed at the gate guard house. We got within a hundred yards of "Building 500" before being stopped, appre-

hended and detained by Offutt AFB security people. We were then taken to Offutt AFB security headquarters, photographed, given 'ban and bar' letters and released three hours later.

Since there was no prior notice of our coming, there was no general press release inviting coverage of the effort. However, one local T.V. news crew was invited to join us as long as our secrecy was maintained. Our van was followed by this TV crew to StratCom Headquarters gate. They stayed at the gate and taped the whole effort. This gave them an exclusive story and made for good viewing on the Channel 7 evening news in Omaha.

Of the ten gate crashers two of us, Brian Terrell and myself have active 'ban and bar' letters and are subject to indictment. Michael Sprong is not sure whether his previous 'ban and bar' letters are active. Now, we will wait and see if indictments come down.

A Call for the Conversion of StratCom

Trinity Sunday – May 29, 1994

We are entering the grounds of the Strategic Command Headquarters today in order to express the need for conversion of this nerve center of global death into an instrument for peace and justice.

We do so as members of the Lakes and Prairies Life Community which works for peace and justice throughout the Midwest and the Great Plains through nonviolent direct action. We are acting in community with our friends across the sea who on this very day are taking the fence down at the U.S. Armed Forces European Command Headquarters.

Here in Nebraska, as in Stuttgart Germany, we act to shed light on these tools of violence. We stand with these "de-fencers" in speaking out against such violence and in reclaiming these grounds for life-affirming, civil use.

We act on this Trinity Sunday which serves as a reminder, especially for those of us who are Christian, that only love can change the world. We place our trust in the trinity of the source of all life, the word of truth, and the spirit of love. We reject the unholy triad of nuclear weapons delivery systems of the Strategic Com-

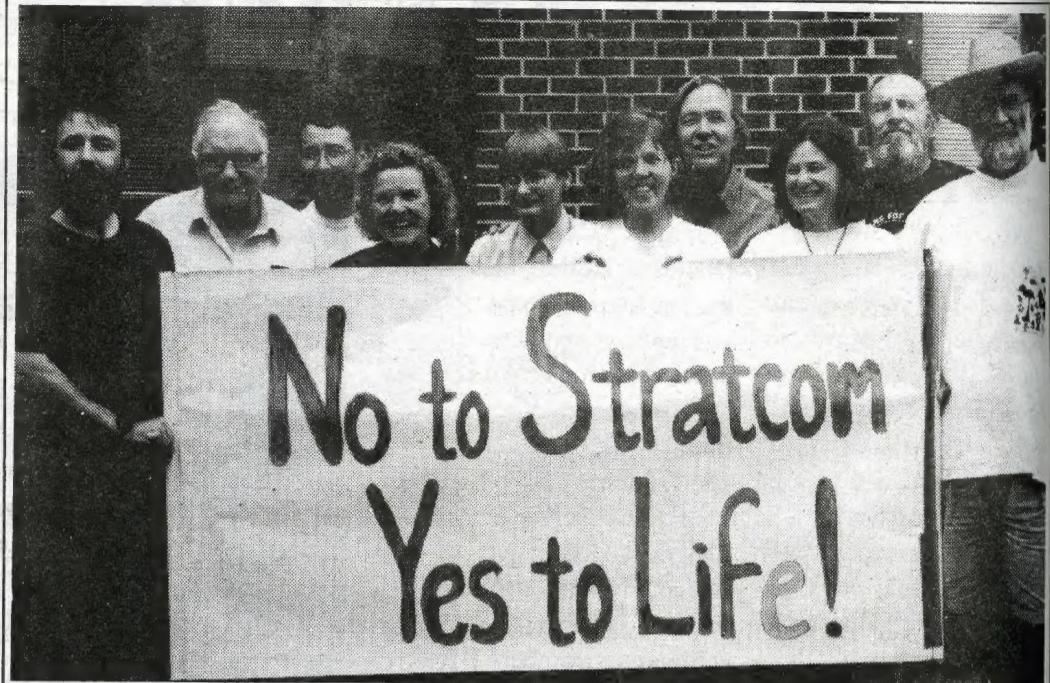
mand. The nuclear weapons are powerful only in promoting death, not in promoting life.

On this Memorial Day Weekend, we remember not only the combatants who have died in past wars, but also the victims of wars and those millions of potential victims who are targeted by weapons controlled at this very place. We are also mindful of the daily victims who reap the harvest from our continuing investment in war: the young who are dying of violence in our streets, women and children in poverty, the injury to earth itself.

We are here to renounce StratCom and all it stands for, to rededicate ourselves to resistance to institutionalized violence, and to call on all people to conversion of heart from fear to hope, from violence to love, from injustice to justice, from warmaking to peacemaking. Let it begin with us.

Local Lakes and Prairies Life Community contact

Fr. Frank Cordaro
St. Patrick's Ch.
223 Harmony St.
Council Bluffs Ia.
(712) 325-8830



StratCom resisters from left to right: Michael Sprong, Sam Day, Brian Terrell, Tess Koenig, Terry Brink, Carl Gilbert, Ladon Sheats, Ardeth Platte, Bob Koenig, Frank Cordaro

Photo by Jo Peters

May 29th Solidarity Witness Noticed

An interesting thing happened here a couple of days after our May 29th witness. I was called by John Marschell, a Special Agent with Special Forces at Offutt (the "Air Force's version of the FBI"). They noticed in our written statement that we mentioned our connection with the de-fencing action by our EUCommunity friends in Germany. Special Agent Marschell wanted to know the nature of our relationship with the European activists.

Of course, I told the Officer all I knew — that we are people of like-mind and spirit with similar resistance histories. Then I asked him how the effort went in Stuttgart (figuring the military's communication system is much quicker than ours). He told me that from the information he got, the de-fencing action had gone well. About twenty people participated in the witness, entering the base and planting flowers before being arrested and released. He said the German effort was completely non violent as was ours.

I thanked Officer Marschell for the update and promised to add his name to our *via pacis* mailing list so he and his superiors can keep informed of our future efforts. One never knows the many ripple effects our witnessing brings about.

—FC



Actions For Peace

De-fencing the EUCOM in Germany

Excerpted from a written statement by the EUCOMmunity

"The power of barbed wire is not so much in the physical barrier, but in the authority it defines and projects. The wire is revered as sacrosanct. It is a pretty idol set up to mark and guard the threshold of profane/sacred space. Rituals of security and clearance attend it. We bow to its power by turning our heads. No looking or thinking or questioning beyond this point. The barrier is really to consciousness itself."

Rev. Bill Kellerman (USA) on the symbolism of fences that surround nuclear installations.

"I think I deserve 80 days free board and lodging from the state for my peace work", said the young Dutchman Frits ter Kuile cheerfully, when German policemen arrested him after the fourth de-fencing action at EUCOM near Stuttgart in Germany. De-fencing action

means to remove the fence as a first step to disarmament. For his participation in the first and second action he was already sentenced to 40 days imprisonment each, which he will serve now.

Together with him a colorful cluster of peace people from all parts of Germany had removed the fence of EUCOM at three places with boltcutters. They advanced on the area under the eyes of American guards and German police to plow the ground, sow wheat, plant flowers and hang banners. One of the runs: "Convert Death Land Into Life Land," another: "We Like Your Faces - Not Your Bases."

First the 19 intruders walked from the center of the town to the EUCOM, accompanied by 30 supporters. They regarded their action as a symbolic act of resistance against a military installation that spreads death and destruction. EUCOM (European Command) is the headquarters of the US military forces in Europe, North Africa and the Near East in-



EUCOMmunity members prepare to convert the European Command, EUCOM, headquarters of the U.S. military from "death land into life land." photo courtesy of W. Sternstein

cluding the Gulf area. It commanded the air raid on Libya in April 1986 and more than 90 % of the logistics in the Gulf War of 1991. Beyond that there are still 500 nuclear bombs in Germany under the control of EUCOM.

The goal of the action was to make EUCOM and its function publicly known. It was meant as a step on the long way to world peace, as part of a non-violent campaign to make Germany and Europe a nuclear-free zone.

The police obtained the particulars of the activists and asked them politely to leave the area. So they did. They will be

Commemorating the Victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

Saturday Aug 6, 1994 (Hiroshima Day)

Mass: 10:00 a.m. at Offutt AFB - Kenney Gate Hwy 75, Bellevue, NE.

Contact: Joyce Glenn, 402-493-4175 or Mark Kenney, 402-451-2517

Tuesday August 9, 1994 (Nagasaki Day)

Prayer Service: 9:30 a.m. at Kenney Gate Contact: Fr. Frank Cordaro, 712-325-8830



1995 Iowa People's History Calendar

More than 100 dates noted on this attractive wall calendar which features monthly topics including: Black Hawk, Sioux City Free Speech Fight, Farm Holiday Movement, Carrie Chapman Catt, Maytag Sit-down, Dred Scott in Iowa, and more....

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Supporters gathered at the Barnes County Courthouse for Carl Kabat's sentencing. photo by Jo Peterson

A Trip to an Indian Religious Ceremony

by Ed Bloomer

One of the highlights of my recent stay with Fr. Frank was our journey to Logan, Iowa to visit Fr. Frank's friend Scott Schumacher. Scott is the leader of a Indian Sweat Lodge. We met Scott and his friends at his house in Logan and then drove out of town to the sweat lodge. The inipi; the Lakota name for a sweat lodge, is in an ideal place off a secondary road, down a dirt road, over a creek and in a small clearing next to a wooded area.

The inipi is made of willow poles covered by large tarps. There is a twelve-inch deep pit

in the middle of the inipi where hot rocks are placed. The sacred fire is just outside the front door/flap of the Inipi. The rocks that were used for the ceremony were already in the fire getting very hot.

When everyone was in the inipi and the hot rocks were place in the center pit, the front flap was closed and there was total darkness. Then Scott, our leader, began the ceremony with a special prayer and welcome.

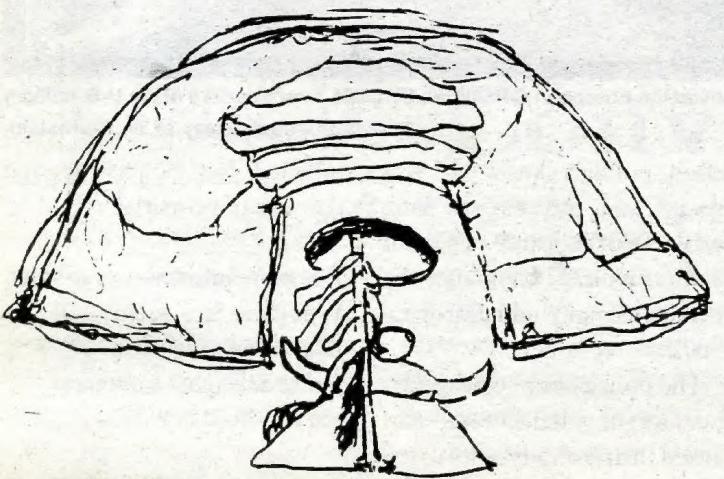
There are four doors to the ceremony — four different times that the front flap is closed, drums are beaten, songs are chanted, prayers are offered and water is thrown on the rocks. The temperature

inside the inipi gets very hot each time. Scott seems to know just when to end a door and lift the flap of the inipi so the cool air can enter. Since there were so many new-comers that night, it was decided not to make it as hot as normally expected.

After the third door, the peace pipe was brought in and passed around. This is the most scared part of the ceremony. Smoking the peace pipe is like taking Holy Communion for the Indians.

What I got most out of this sacred ceremony was the feeling of purification of body and spirit. I felt like my mind was cleared and heart lifted. Afterwards, I felt like I did a three day water fast. It was so nice to get out of the inipi and feel the cool night air all over my body.

People brought a light brunch of cheese and fruit to eat after the ceremony. I made a mistake and ate too much. But I recovered later that night and felt great the next day. I highly recommend folks to participate in a sweat lodge ceremony if they ever get a chance. It was just what I needed.



Death Penalty Is Not the Answer

by Ed Fallon

Ed Fallon is a friend and neighbor of the Catholic Worker. He also is a state representative serving Des Moines' north and east sides. The following article appeared in the Des Moines Register in July.

The brutal, senseless deaths of our beloved neighbors, Clara Baker and Phyllis King, have been difficult for North Park and Riverbend residents. The difficulty is compounded and the grieving process violated when Gov. Terry Branstad advances his own electoral ambitions by using this tragedy to again call for the death penalty.

My family and I have lived in the house behind Clara Baker's for seven years. We grew to know her well. We will forever speak highly of her gentle, caring nature; of her passionate love for animals, especially the weakest and most neglected ones; and of her deep, abiding faith in God.

Knowing Clara as I did, I firmly believe that she would be greatly offended by Branstad's cynical manipulation of

the public's outrage over her murder. The implication that the loss of Clara and Phyllis can somehow be compensated by executing their killers should offend anyone who appreciated the priceless beauty of these two gentlewomen.

Face it. Branstad likes being governor more than he likes telling the truth. He'll do what he has to and say what he must to maintain his office. As he has many times before, he'll use any grisly murder as an excuse to appear tough on crime by clamoring for a return of the death penalty. After the Drake Diner murders, family members of one victim spoke out against the death penalty and asked Branstad not to use the incident as a springboard for his own political agenda.

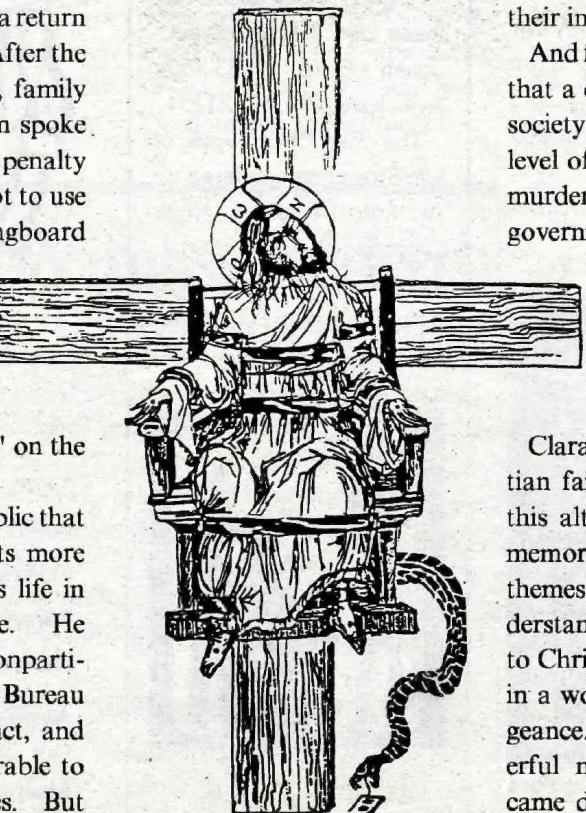
To borrow a line from Fred Grandy, the governor should "Tell the Truth" on the death penalty.

He should tell the public that the death penalty costs more than twice as much as life in prison without parole. He knows this. Iowa's nonpartisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau has established this fact, and the figures are comparable to findings in other states. But

the governor fails to mention the death penalty's exorbitant price tag.

He should tell the public that Iowa's penalty for a Class A felony is life in prison without parole. A criminal convicted of first-degree murder in Iowa will never walk free again, except in the rare case of a governor commuting the sentence.

He should tell the public that study after study has shown that the death penalty does not



Community News

Continued from page 3

Jordan has been in his ornery stage. He doesn't like being the littlest worker. But he is so little and cute, he gets by with a lot that others wouldn't. He is still speaking Spanish. Hopefully it won't be long before he can translate for us all.

I have been very busy these past few months. Along with trying to keep one foot ahead of my three boys, keeping a lid on Lazarus House and helping out with coverage and cooking at Dingman House, I had a job at Moulton Elementary school.

I did one on one teaching in a special program. Now I'm working at a day care center down the street.

I am also in love! Who might this wonderful man be, you wonder. He is Richard Ngamom (Hgamo). He is from Cameroon, Africa and is a student at DMACC. He is living in a room in Ligutti House. I would like to thank Phil Riley for steering him to the Catholic Worker and bringing him into my life. Richard has been my light at

the end of the tunnel. I hope everyone will get a chance to meet him.

I also want to thank Marie Molloy. She has been a big help to me. I'm hoping to go back to school this Fall. Marie has been encouraging me in this move.

I would like to send a special thanks to Dennis Zigrane and the folks of Eagle Grove. They brought us five new beds and enough clothes to help many families. Thank you Dennis. We love you.

Of course, we send a big thanks to all the churches and groups who have continued to bring dinner in the Spring and Summer months. There are so few of us in the community right now. We couldn't make it without all the good help and support.

Well, I hope this issue of *via pacis* finds everyone in good health. Please pray for my friend Helen Oster and Mary Lou Retton both of whom have been ill lately. God bless and keep everyone of you who are our extended family. Without your help, we could not exist.

ISI

by L

Editor's Note: Marie Molloy, a supporter of the Catholic Worker, claims that lawbreakers have been active and justice has been served during the years she has been involved.

Barry has written an article recently. He and **Mary** occupied from December through January.

Of the and pieces December January 1 and nights of Etna in three days in a refugee felt the pressure combatants on patrol often at night watching. at night seized. at night taken from Bank as throw stones reopened spent an

W. Olsen's sermon. He said, "Jesus is the one who died for Clara, and Phyllis, and . . . and as he paused and added the first names of the four people who have been charged with their deaths, I felt a chill run up my spine despite the hot, muggy air, and wondered how many others had had the same sensation.

He should tell the public that the court system doesn't always work the way it should, and innocent people have been executed. Since 1900, 139 people later proven innocent were given the death sentence. Twenty-three of these were executed before the evidence of their innocence surfaced.

And finally, he should realize that a compassionate and just society should not stoop to the level of the criminal. Though murderers may deserve death, government has an obligation

to demonstrate an alternative to a cycle of violence that only perpetuates itself.

Clara's life of a deep Christian faith was an example of this alternative. Last week's memorial service emphasized themes of forgiveness and understanding, themes so central to Christianity, and so lacking in a world gone mad for vengeance. For me, the most powerful moment in the service came during the Rev. Steven



Letters

Out on an Ecclesiastical Limb. . .

The following letter to the editor by Fr. Frank Cordaro appeared in the Des Moines Register and the Omaha World Herald.

Pope John Paul II's most recent letter on women and the priesthood is both silly and tragic at the same time.

It is silly because the Pope believes that on his word alone the issue of women and the ordained priesthood can be settled once and for all. There is no consensus within the Catholic Church on this issue. The role of women and gender equality within the ordained

governing and leadership structure of the Catholic Church is in flux. The Pope just can't stop the dialogue by edict.

It is tragic because the Pope overstates his authority when he speaks for the future on this issue. Granted, he is in control of the present. But he can not control the future. You would think he would have learned something from the Church's recent official apologies and reversal in the Galileo case.

Revelation is ongoing. The Holy Spirit will continue to reform and renew the Church until the end of time. Hopefully, the Church and its

leadership will have the courage to follow her lead wherever she takes us.

Post Script: I regret the use of the words "silly & tragic" in the above letter. At the time I wrote and sent this letter I was feeling the pain and suffering shared by so many caused by the Pope's statement. Upon reflection it would have been more appropriate to have chosen two less offensive words, yet leaving the content of the letter intact. I apologize to those who might have felt my characterization of the Pope's statement inappropriate.

— FC

Israel-Palestine: No Easy Peace

by Barry Molloy

Editor's Note: Barry and Marie Molloy have been steadfast supporters of the DMCW for several years. While Barry claims that Marie is the "heavy lawbreaker", they have both been active in Catholic peace and justice groups since their high school years in Chicago during the 1930's. Their last 33 years have been spent in Des Moines.

Barry has written the following article in response to the recent Mideast Peace accords. He and Marie traveled to the occupied territories of Israel from December 30, 1989 through January 14, 1990, to observe the commencement of "1990: Year of Peace."

If the two weeks Marie and I spent in the Occupied Territories between December 26, 1989 and January 14, 1990, three days and nights were in the village of Etna in the West Bank and three days and two nights were in a refugee camp in Gaza. We felt the pervasive oppression of combat-armed Israeli soldiers on patrol in the streets and often on rooftops, constantly watching. We heard shooting at night when Palestinians were seized. We heard dogs barking at night when children were taken from homes in the West Bank as a warning not to throw stones when schools reopened the next day. We spent an evening in the Mount

of Olives Hotel in East Jerusalem where we met with a Yesh Guv soldier who won't serve in the territories but will serve and fight any other place.

In the Gaza home, we ate supper with a young Intifada fighter who had a large bullet scar in his forehead and a recent, open wound in his lower leg. He could not safely stay in his own home at night because of the random searches. His mother had spent six months in prison for her activities in the Intifada - the resistance to the occupation which began in 1988. She had five young children. This is the character of

committed atrocities also. As Noam Chomsky, noted MIT professor has stated, "There have been atrocities on both sides..."

There are secular radicals in the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) who oppose the peace process as well as the radical, violent fundamentalist movements. Among the Jewish settlers, called American Cowboys by the Palestinians because many of them are from the U.S., many are just as strongly opposed to a Palestinian state in Judea and Samaria as there are Arabs in favor of it. Settlers are armed by the

ington, D.C. The White House lawn with the world watching. A hand extended, a hand accepted. PLO chairman Arafat to Israeli Prime Minister Rabin. Two former deadly enemies. What now???

The PLO is changing their charter to satisfy Israel. In 1988, Arafat had renounced terrorism and acknowledged Israel's right to exist. Now parts of the PLO charter will be changed to reflect this.

Israelis have agreed to, and are, releasing thousands of prisoners; and have agreed to negotiate directly with the PLO. The current proposal is to withdraw from Gaza and Jericho. The PLO can control some aspects of life in those two places. With Gaza being one of the most populated and most impoverished areas, letting the Palestinians have it may be more of a benefit to Israel than a loss.

There are major problems ahead. There are Arabs who want Arafat dead. For years he has been forced to not sleep in the same house two nights in a row. President Assad of Syria has little love for the PLO and can intimidate the organization. The most radical religious Jews, many of them settlers whom I refer to as "expansionist Zionists", want all of the Judea and Samaria land. All these situations together can spoil the future for peace.

There has been too much pain, death and suffering in the past. No one can afford any more of it.

Remembering John Shiel



Friends:

I enjoyed reading every word of *via pacis*. It is nourishment to the soul.

I was saddened to hear of John Shiel's death. I too remember him from various sit-ins and protests at military facilities about which you spoke of in your eulogy.

But one of his last, if not his very last, jail terms was for an arrest in front of an abortion clinic in Buffalo NY, the last week of April 1992. He was featured in the Buffalo Sun Times because he was one of the last people left after many weeks. He refused to pay bail,

or be released. He was carried in there for protecting the unborn and he would have to be carried out.

John wasn't selective about violence. He simply opposed it all and never let political correctness interfere with prophetic correctness. Never. Not John.

Carol Crossed
109 Pickwick Dr.
Rochester NY 14618



Practical problems of the larger community need to be solved:

♦ Much of Tel Aviv's water is from an aquifer under the West Bank.

♦ Agricultural production and distribution problems: Palestinians have, for years, been grossly limited in what they could grow and sell.

♦ Radio and TV broadcast air rights: Access to clear channel wave lengths. Freedom from the practice of jamming.

♦ Possible harbors off the Gaza coast. Palestinian controlled international trade.

♦ Opportunities to work in Israel at fair or equal pay. Job opportunities beyond menial labor.

♦ A Palestinian capital enclave in East Jerusalem without territorial rights.

Very simply, this is the opportunity for two peoples who have been enemies in the Middle East to become leaders in the area. It offers the prospect that the political climate could provide security and healthy living conditions for all the families, their children and grandchildren, to grow and prosper side-by-side. Anything less may bring violence, fighting, and killing worse than ever before.



tary occupation according to international law.

We saw houses that had been blown up when a member of the family had merely been suspected of stone throwing or other violations of military law. In those cases, the family cannot rebuild. The property is deemed abandoned and legally passes to Israeli ownership. Many thousands of Palestinians over the years have been arrested and confined for up to six months without charges or a trial. These are all violations of the Geneva Convention. Palestinians have

pons to harass the Palestinians, for example they shoot at or near Palestinians and we saw solar heated water tanks bullet pock-marked.

During all this time the U.S. has been Israel's staunch supporter and, until recently, refused to even speak to the PLO.

From 1946 through 1990, the United States provided \$82 billion in foreign grants and credits to Israel. In recent years the U.S. has given Israel \$3 billion annually for economic and military needs.

September 20, 1993, Wash-

SNAPS:

Poetry and Prose From a Family Album

by Frank Pommersheim

In this series of intimate poetry and prose commentary, DMCW friend and University of South Dakota law professor Frank Pommersheim evokes a portrait not only of members of a particular family, but of all families as well. The resulting portrait not only describes but transfigures familial reality through a compositional process in which "strict economies of means release a powerful concentrate of feelings."

available for \$7.95 (tax and postage included) from Rose Hill Books, 28291 - 444th Ave., Marion, SD 57043. Discounts are offered for large orders.

DMCW List of Needs

diapers, cleaning supplies - especially cleanser and oil soap, pine scented liquid, food - canned, dried and fresh, MONEY!, dish and laundry detergent, prayers, toiletries, feminine products,. Please read "Summer Appeal" on page 1 for more on how you can help.

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